

01 November, 2018

TO: Amy Petersen, Chair of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Jim Mattingly, Chair of the Committee on Committees

The Committee on Committees has, today, recommended the following 3 changes to committee structure, election, and procedures, respectively. Their general purposes are to improve the effectiveness of these committees and their work, and to preserve the integrity of shared governance on our campus. I request to petition the University Faculty Senate for their approval of these recommendations.

Item 1: PDA Committee

It has been requested that terms for the PDA Committee be reduced from 3 to 2 years. This change is to reduce the likelihood that college delegates would resign during their terms. There has recently been a number of resignations, requiring time-consuming special elections in the colleges, which delays the committee's work. We recommend reducing terms on the PDA Committee from 3 to 2 years, as the Graduate College has requested.

Item 2: URC (SRF Committee)

College delegates to the University Research Committee, which reviews Summer Research Fellowship applications, are currently appointed by Deans each year. We recommend that these seats be elected by The Faculty, instead of appointed by Deans, to preserve the integrity of shared governance structures at UNI.

Item 3: Summer Research Fellowship Overflow Assistance

The number of applications for Summer Research Fellowships received by the URC can vary widely. At last count this year, the Committee was approaching 60 applications and still climbing. When the Committee receives more applications than its membership can handle the Graduate College has asked for the discretion to assign administrative staff with research expertise to aid in the review process. We recommend allowing the Graduate College this form of discretion to facilitate reliable review of applications for Summer Research Fellowships, with the stipulation that only elected faculty members on the committee will participate in voting.